

Meeting Notes

Groundwater Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th, 2004

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Room 15-05

Attendees: Alec Naugle, Sarah Raker, Keith Roberson, Jeff Kapellas, David Elias, Tom Mohr

1. Opening Remarks

10:00-10:05

Due to low attendance, we decided to skip workgroup topics 2,3, and 4

2. Announcements & Items of Interest

10:05-10:30

- GRA Dry Cleaner Conference (any attendees?)

This symposium was hit for GRA! Unfortunately there was only one Water Board attendee (Mary Rose). Heated discussion about Lodi leaky sewer line PCE case among other things. Look for complete write-up in GRA's Hydro Visions newsletter.

- Lodi Leaky Sewer Line Case (is anyone following this?)

The City of Lodi experience may shine the spotlight back on the need for legislation to require investigation of historic drycleaner sites. In the case of Lodi, historic drycleaners are believed to have leaked PCE, which then entered the City's sewer system where it was redistributed and leaked again, ultimately impacting one City drinking water well and threatening others. Recently the Water Board (Region 5) issued a CAO to several parties including the City and a drycleaner. This case has also spurred a potential product liability lawsuit aimed at the manufacturers of PCE, similar to what happened with MTBE.

- Zone 7 Well Master Plan & EIR

No Discussion

- GAMA/AB599

USGS has money to spend on groundwater basin sampling and is busy prioritizing where to go next. Focus may be on North Bay basins. Will follow NAQWA protocol and apply tiered system to select which public supply wells to sample and which contaminants to sample for. USGS will perform emerging contaminants testing on a select number of supply wells.

- Indoor Air/ Vapor Intrusion Issues

No Discussion

- Perchlorate/Emerging Contaminants

GRA is organizing its perchlorate symposium scheduled for Aug 4 in Glendale.

Keith has an Order scheduled for the Board's May 19th hearing dealing with UTC's perchlorate issues. This case involves regulation of both groundwater and surface

water impacts and is particularly sensitive because the SCVWD's Anderson Reservoir is downstream from the site. This Order addresses issues associated with GW-SW interaction, such as SW monitoring, establishment of GW and SW cleanup levels, etc.

3. Workgroup Topics – Updates & Prioritization

10:30-11:35

(1) Electronic Plume Reporting (Laurent, Jeff)

Little progress has been made since the last meeting due to competing priorities. A meeting with State Board (J. Giannopoulos) will be scheduled in May to discuss the plume mapping project and integration with GeoTracker. One hold-up has been a problem with the plotting algorithm for generating real-time plume outlines from coordinate & concentration data input via the internet-based interface. For the moment, commercially available software will be used to generate the plume maps (but not in real-time) so that we can move forward and prepare a presentation for State Board. As a reminder, the scope of this project is to eventually include all non-fuel plumes region-wide and show iso-concentrations contours for standard benchmarks, such as the MCL, 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 ppb, etc. This project will provide a key management tool to help transcend the individual case paradigm and allow for better evaluation of regulatory program effectiveness. Jeff, Laurent, and Keith are leads on this project.

Tom mentioned that SCVWD digitizes plume maps created by consultants/dischargers that have been scanned or otherwise converted to TIFF, JPEG, or PDF formats. These plume maps should currently be available via the internet.

(2) GW–SW Integration (Michael, Mary Rose, Keith, Dale, Habte, Tobi, Nancy)

No discussion

(3) GW Basin Plan Amendments & Language (Alec, Stephen)

No discussion

(4) Grants & Funding Opportunities (Mary Rose)

No discussion

(5) GW Website (Jeff, Laurent)

Little progress has been made on this topic since the last meeting. The groundwater website could be a high visibility product. A flowchart and/or site map or other visual aid should be prepared for distribution to the entire group to facilitate discussion of what we want to accomplish and what the website might look like. In past meetings, we discussed the purpose and function of such a website and concluded that an internet (vs. intranet) site would offer greater value, particularly in disseminating information, reports, guidance, etc. to the public, soliciting feedback, and explaining who we are and what we do. The questions seem to be about how to integrate this with the Water Board's website, and exactly what the organization and content should look like. Management buy-in is critical at an early stage. Although Laurent and Jeff

are leads on this project, the entire committee needs to provide input and feedback to make this work. Another idea is to find out about student help for this project.

(6) South Bay Report Recommendations (All):

- Vertical Conduits
- City General Plans
- Drycleaner Cleanups
- ~~SM Plain Basin Boundaries~~
- ~~Leaking Sewer Lines~~
- ~~Regulatory Maze~~
- ~~Site Naming, Numbering, & Tracking~~
- Institutional Controls
- ~~GW Management Plans & Annual Reporting~~
- ~~Operating Gasoline Stations~~

There was no discussion of these topics other than to point out why some have been crossed out. This is because in the January 2004 meeting, we prioritized the topics, based on the intended work product/outcome, degree of difficulty, importance to our members, whether the topic is being addressed by others elsewhere, and whether an actual person could work on the issue. The four remaining topics tentatively floated to the top. We need to continue this discussion at the next meeting to establish action items. From January meeting:

Vertical Conduits: The SBR recommendations include: (1) Document the success of the ACWD program and use it as an example for other areas, particularly in the South Bay, (2) Develop guidance on searching for vertical conduits, (3) Require conduit searches at the time groundwater impacts are identified.

Chuck will take lead in development of "Fact Sheet" for distribution to local planning/permitting agencies and for in-house use. The Fact Sheet should provide the necessary guidance and advocate for programs similar to what ACWD's tri-cities use. Also need to develop model language for vertical conduit searches for our cleanup Orders. Since ACWD already has a program in place and since we have the famous "Berkins" memo, this project should be straight forward.

City/County General Plans: The SBR recommendation is to list the priority groundwater protection elements that a general plan should include and encourage cities to include these elements when updating their general plans. In January, the committee discussed developing a "Fact Sheet" or similar to facilitate this. The fact sheet would describe issues of concern for groundwater protection and provide examples of language or topics for general plans to increase awareness of groundwater protection concerns. It may also include discussion of how to identify "vulnerable" areas and provide the most recent maps for groundwater basin/recharge zone/watershed boundaries. Mary Rose and David have met with Bruce to discuss outreach to municipalities regarding stormwater management including "smart"

infiltration of stormwater for groundwater protection. This topic needs additional participants and has significant potential for overlap with GW-SW Integration subcommittee.

Drycleaner Cleanups: The SBR recommendations include (1) convene a multi-agency task force to develop and implement a pilot project in a selected city to determine the feasibility of inventorying and ranking current and historical drycleaners based on potential water quality threats, and (2) support legislative efforts directed at funding California's participation in EPA's State Coalition for Remediation of Dry Cleaners and eventual development of a statewide drycleaner monitoring and remediation program.

No progress has been made on this topic in the past several months, although Tom Mohr has recently unboxed SCVWD's drycleaner draft pilot study after the District moved its offices. No recent news on AB698 (drycleaner cleanup fund), which reportedly died in committee a year ago.

Institutional Controls: The SBR recommends that the Water Board maintain an updated list of cases with institutional controls and make it accessible online. Currently this is required for non-UST cases as of 1/1/03 via AB2436 and a database is being developed for UST sites in Geotracker.

At the January meeting we discussed adding "Risk Management" to the title of this topic. DTSC currently has a database of landuse covenants and there is a company called Terradex that tracks ICs for a fee. The concept of a distributed work model was discussed whereby we would encourage Cities and building departments to track such information since they are generally in the loop during redevelopment and are in the best enforcement position via approval/denial of development permits. This topic needs to be discussed further to identify committee action items

4. Action Items; Expectations for Next Meeting

11:35-11:50

5. Miscellaneous Items

11:50-12:00

We'd like to invite more folks from local agencies to attend committee meetings and participate in topics of interest. Some ideas include: EBMUD, Zone 7, SFPUC, CUPAs, LOPs, City/County Planning agencies, etc. Please feel free to discuss this with your contacts. If you know of someone who'd like to participate, forward their email address to Alec and Keith so they can be included in future announcements.

Additionally, we'd like to solicit ideas for presentations at future committee meetings. Please send us your thoughts for topics and/or speakers.

Next Committee Meeting.....Tuesday, July 27, 2004....10am-12pm; Rm 15-05